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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Defenses on the Island of Solta

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1. The building of fortifications was in progress on the island of Solta throughout 1950. Laborers employed on the project reported that six casemates were built and equipped with guns. Air raid shelters were constructed for the gun crews and underground ammunition dumps were built.
2. A large number of troops were employed on the construction of these defenses during 1950 but were withdrawn prior to July 1951 and building activities are now proceeding on a reduced scale.
3. On Mount Vela Straza, 205 meters above sea level, there are six German-built open casemates made of reinforced concrete. They were not used prior to 1950 but have now been reactivated. They are not constantly manned but are visited periodically by patrols from the coast defense battalion.
4. An observation post was built on Mount Vela Straza in the western section of Solta Island in late 1950. The post is linked by telephone with Battalion Headquarters on Mount Pelegrin and with the observation post, Vela Straza, in the eastern section of the island. The post has only optical signaling devices and is manned by 8 to 10 naval men. About 100 to 150 meters below the summit, near a small church, are two mounted guns.
5. North of the village of Maslinica, near the Obinunskirt height, 132 meters above sea level, there are several pre-war fortifications. These were enlarged and modernized in 1949. They are neither armed nor manned at present, but are visited daily by KNOJ patrols. The village of Maslinica is permanently garrisoned by a KNOJ detachment of ten men which patrols the entire island.
6. Next to the church of Sv. Mihovil, between Mount Pelegrin and the village of Grohote, there is a large one-story wooden building with a concrete floor which is the main garrison storehouse for Solta Island. Military equipment and ammunition unloaded in the small harbor of Rogac have been sent to this building.
7. Several military missions have been observed on the small peninsula of Livka, on the extreme eastern tip of the island. It is reported that construction of defenses will begin soon in this area. A cable station

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is located on the peninsula which provides a link with Brac and Split on one side and Hvar on the other.

8. A new motor road traversing the whole length of the island has been planned and preliminary work is already in progress. At most points the road will follow the course of the existing road which is only suitable for horse-drawn traffic.
9. A new water tank holding 1,000 tons of drinking water was built in early 1951 near the barracks on Mount Pelegrin. The water is for the exclusive use of military personnel. A similar tank, with a capacity of 1,200 tons, was built in the spring of 1951 near Gornje Selo. It was constructed by the military authorities but has been made available to the civilian population.

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